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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MARVEL COMICS
174
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Lunatik
BIZ '94

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY KEITH GIFFEN

LUNATIK

"DAMAGES"

SCRIPT, CO-PLOTTER, COLORIST AND CO-CREATOR .....LOVERN KINDZIERSKI
PENCILS, CO-PLOTTER, AND CO-CREATOR .....KEITH GIFFEN
INKS, HE DID IT .....CHARLIE ADLARD
LETTERS, HE DID.....JON BABCOCK

On a far-off planet of little people and little significance, the Silver Surfer champions the peaceful inhabitants against the savage lunatic-like actions of THE LUNATIK!

NICK FURY

"BREAKTHROUGH"

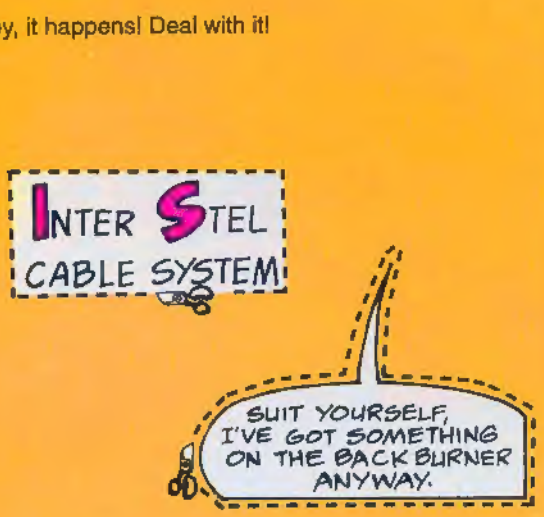
WRITER .....MARIANO NICIEZA
PENCILS .....WARREN MARTINECK
INKS .....ROBER QUIJANO
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....DIANE BUSCEMA

A.I.M. has gotten hold of a Shi'ar spacecraft which leads Colonel Fury to A.I.M. island.

The LUNATIK do-it-yourself repair kit

Instructions:
Step one: cut carefully along the conveniently provided dotted lines.
Step two: trot out your copy of MCP #172. Open book to page 3 of the Lunatik story. Hint: if it's got a picture of U.S. Agent, turn the book over.
Step three: paste the provided word balloon onto the lower part of panel five. Hint: the one with the bug.
Step four: paste that other thing onto the box Lu is holding in panel six.
Step five: re-read the story, hopefully this time it makes more sense....hopefully.

Hey, it happens! Deal with it!



MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear Richard and Michael,

I just read MCP #170 and received a big shock. No more MCP!? Oh no! Being a thirty something female I feel a bit of a minority in the comics buyers universe.

MCP has something to offer everyone; true some stories were better than others but on the whole the comic did what it should. What's that you say? Major characters had new aspects of their characters shown, lesser known characters got a showcase.

My favorite story was the one with Wolverine saving Lynx. She was left in the woods waiting for Wolverine's return. Come on guys, don't just abandon her there. Her character has some great potential.

I have a pretty good collection of MCP. I don't have some of the early issues. I am also missing a couple of recent ones. I'll complete my collection in time though.

I'll miss MCP. It was thought-provoking, humorous, frustrating and aggravating in turn.

This is the first time I've written a comic book. I'm just sorry it's not a happier occasion.

I also wanted to mention one other aspect of the book. Being rather tight on money the book serves as an introduction to characters I might not otherwise see. It also gives me four stories for $1.75; in today's economy that's a bargain!

The saying goes "All good things must come to an end." MCP will be missed.

Good luck to the staff on future projects.

Make Mine Marvel!

Sheila Curry
RR 2, Box 234
Stanberry, MO 64489

Thanks for taking the time to write, Sheila. It is encouraging to us to know that there are adult women readers out there.

Dear Richard Ashford and Michael Kraiger,

I haven't been too involved with the newer Iron Man comics. I wasn't even aware Jim Rhodes was the War Machine until a friend told me. I was just going through my comic collection. I found old Iron Man issues. I looked for ones with Mandarin; issue 99 had a good cover. Michael O'Brian masqueraded as Iron Man, Mandarin caught him and used titanium chains to hold Michael to a Doomsday rocket. I reread the story, remembered the rings, characters such as Yellow Claw; I looked closely at Mandarin's face, the long finger nails on his hands. I realized seventeen years had passed between IRON MAN #99 and MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #169. Len Kaminski and Scott Benson wrote a rather revealing Mandarin story. The Past is Prologue was very insightful to this northern Wisconsin fellow. Patrick Rolo drew a very different Mandarin from the Machiavellian type I recalled. The Valley of Spirits, a Makluan space ship, the heart of darkness, what a concept. I enjoyed seeing flashbacks; they gave a rich history which I was never aware of. The Mandarin is fighting a highly fragile situation. Like a man walking a tightrope or the ledge of a skyscraper, who knows what direction Mandarin will go.

As for the other stories, Vengeance "Fallen Idols" showed a dramatic turn around for Vengeance. Vengeance can be all consuming; all we have to do is look at history for countless examples of this. It wasn't too late for

(continued on cover three)

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TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY JEFF MOORE/TIM DZON

VENGEANCE

"GONE WILD"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
ART .....FRED HARPER-
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

Rebecca Taylor is dead, a victim of the evil Diabolique. Now Badalino and Vengeance face their toughest moment!

EXCALIBUR

"CROSS TIME CRITTERS"

WRITER .....SKIP DIETZ
ART .....PACO DIAZ LUQUE
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK-
COLORS.....ASHLEY POSELLA

What do Devil Dinosaur, Moon Boy, Lockheed, Shadowcat and the Technet have in common? Nothing!

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

Not much room this time around. We are putting together the last issue of MCP, and we're still not too sure what we will be doing next. Well, that's not entirely true. We will be editing a sixty-four page special issue of the INHUMANS, written by Marvel's own Skip Dietz with art by Robert Black and Rey Garcia. And then there's the sixty-four page Nick Fury, Black Widow, Night Raven story written by Cefn Ridout with dynamically dark art by Charlie Adlard, and the four issues of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT ON: CAPTAIN AMERICA, as well as the work we're doing on two upcoming books: THE ART OF JOHN BUSCEMA and THE ART OF JOHN ROMITA. And we do have the first couple of chapters of a Shang Chi: Master of the Martial Arts story by Karl Bollers, Cary Nord and Bambos Georgiou that will probably see print as a one-shot special next year, as well as an Iron Fist story written by James Felder with some way-out art from the talented team of Robert Black and Rey Garcia. So you'll probably still be reading comics that we'll be editing, because you really don't want to miss seeing all the stuff we've been working on.

busy as beavers,
Richard and Michael

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 174, Late February, 1995. (ISSN #1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published biweekly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.75 per copy in the U.S. and $2.35 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $21.00; foreign $33.00; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WOLVERINE and GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Vengeance; his eyes have been opened to reality. It was a very good climax to the War Machine story line. Something made me curious, ie: Reverend Nabisco Nicieza. Mariano might not have had a story in this issue but he has a way of getting his name in the book. That's enough writing for today.

Allen Klingelhoets
9 South 9th St.
Barron, WI 54812-1611

We think Vengeance writer Chris Cooper named the character Reverend Nabisco Nicieza as a bit of gentle ribbing toward the Nicieza *brothers*, Fabian and Mariano; maybe he wanted to let them know he thought they were good cookies? (groan). We're glad you thought the Mandarin story so thought-provoking, Allen. We've always felt that comics should be fun, and what could be more fun than digging through your collection to reread and relive the memories of yesteryear.

Dear Marvel Readers Present,

I am writing again to voice my support for Rocket Raccoon. This time I would like to suggest a Rocket Raccoon team-up with Slapstick. I'm sure you could come up with a great story, and the similarity of appearance to one of Judson Jake's Killer Clowns would make for an interesting first encounter. I'd also like to point out that Blackjack O'Hare is a lagomorph, not a rodent.

Tim Dutcher
W1252 County T
St. Cloud, WI 53079

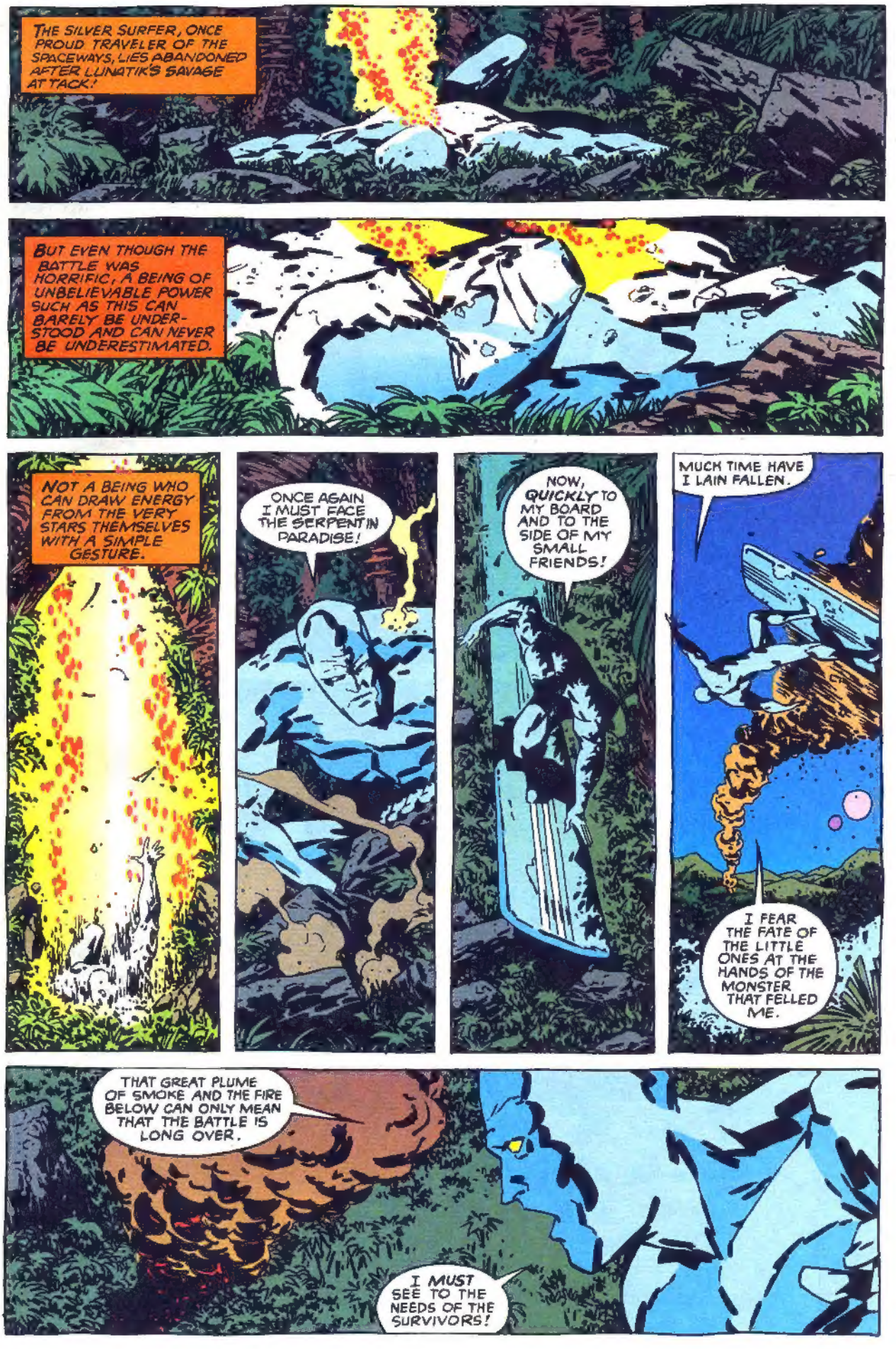
Tim, we have to agree that you've come up with a funny idea. And we have to agree that MCP would be a great place for Rocket Raccoon to appear but if you've been reading this letters page you know that it's just not in the cards. Thanks for writing, you lagomorph-lovin" guy.

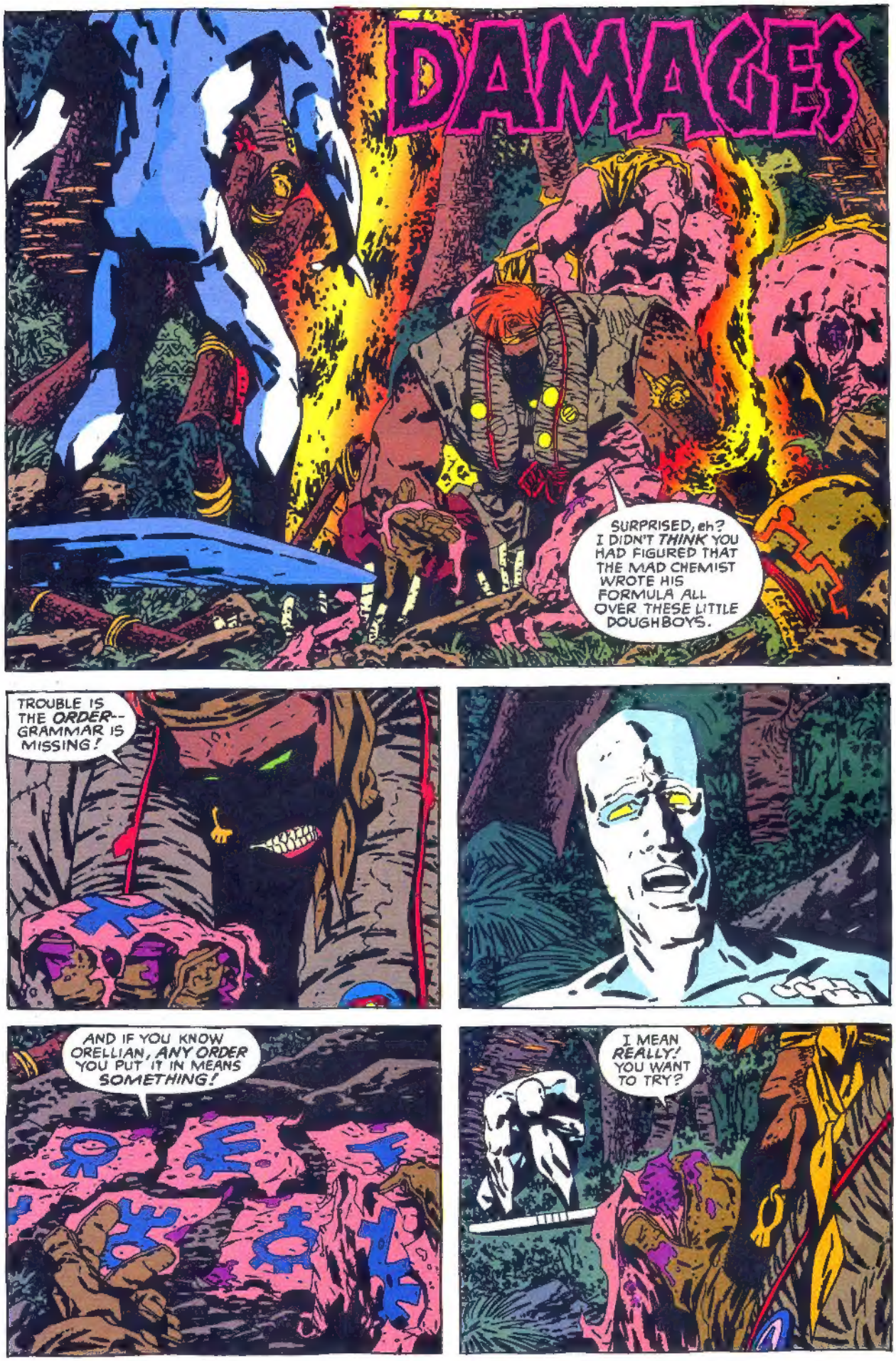
Dear MCP,

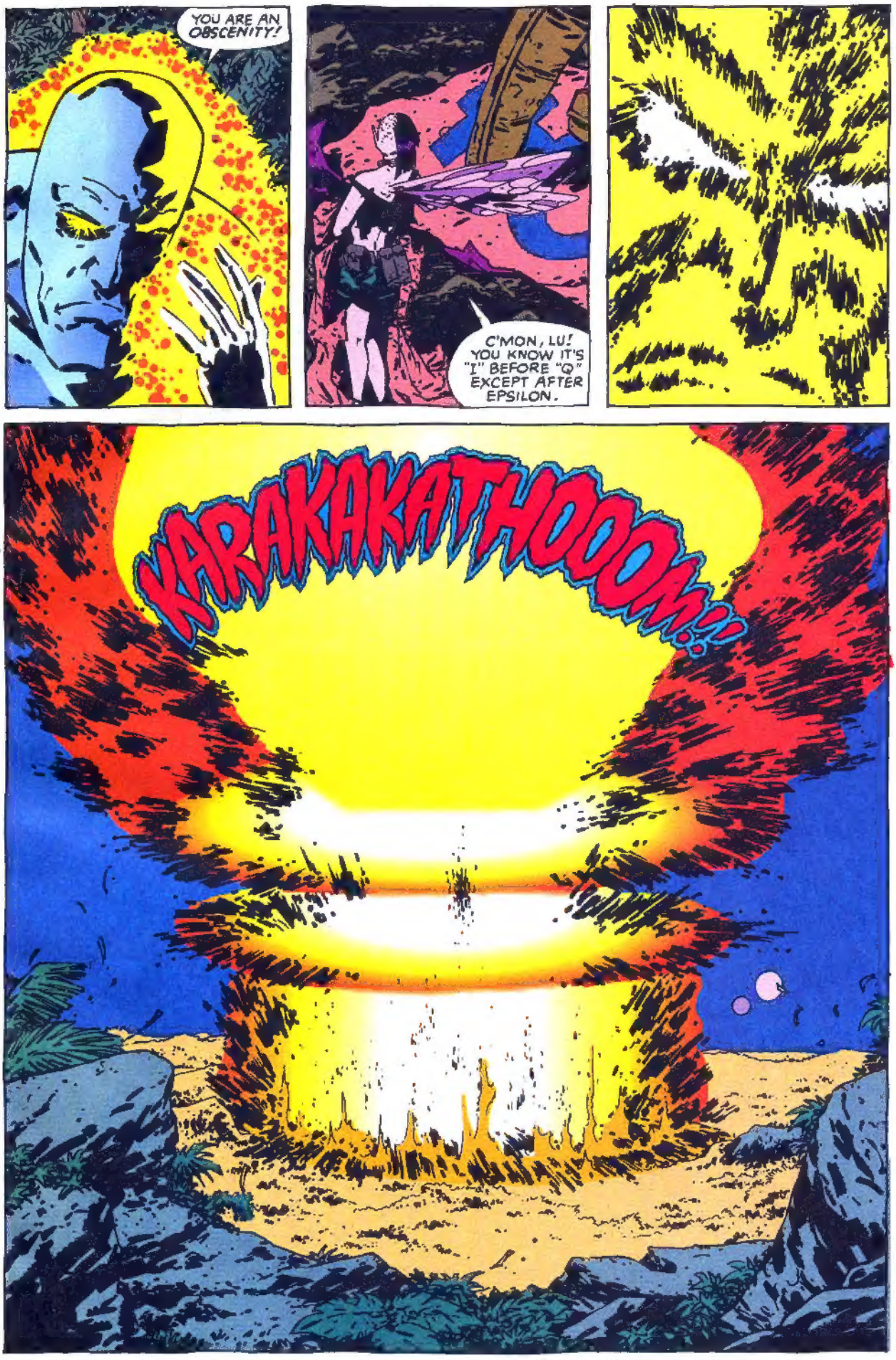
I was paging through an old copy of MCP #144 when I had the perfect idea for a new character. In the Scarlet Witch story Ars Magna said that Wanda's powers awakened him which meant that she had information that his creator was looking for. At the end though, she escaped and he was left with Pixel. Ars Magna would have a better chance of finding the information in the real world, he could use Pixel as a host. The new character could be called Dark Magna since Pixel is from Hell. It would be like Dark Phoenix, but permanent! It would be a good character because after the Siege of Darkness we won't be seeing much of the devil in comics. Bye, gotta get to my neighborhood comics store to buy some more copies of MCP! Make Mine Marvel!

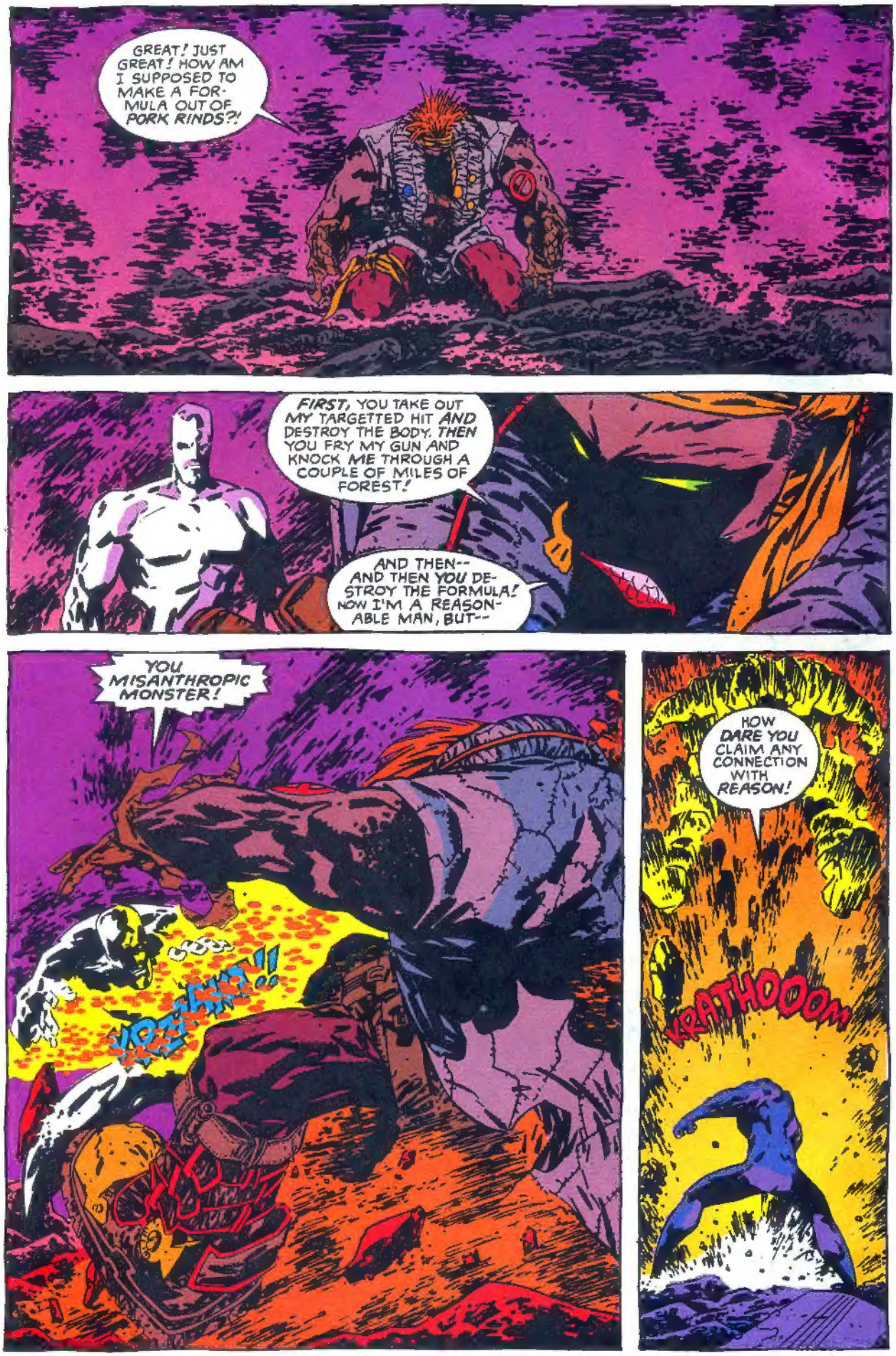
Zach Gold
150 Town Line Road
Burlington, CT 06013

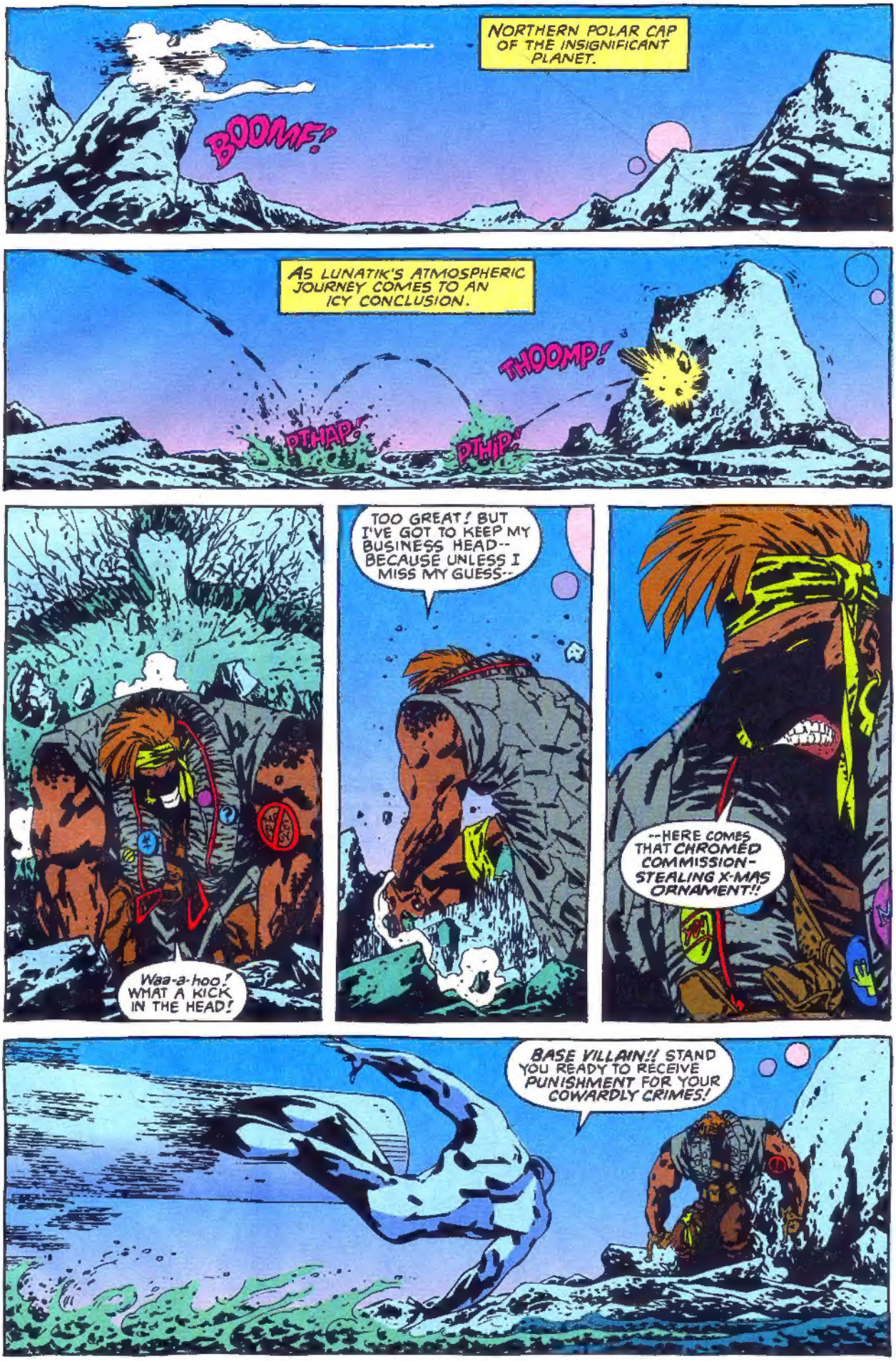
Well, at least one more copy; of course you can always buy back issues. Zach, you've really come up with an intriguing idea, but you should put it down on paper in the form of a story synopsis, and send it to an editor who would most likely use those characters.

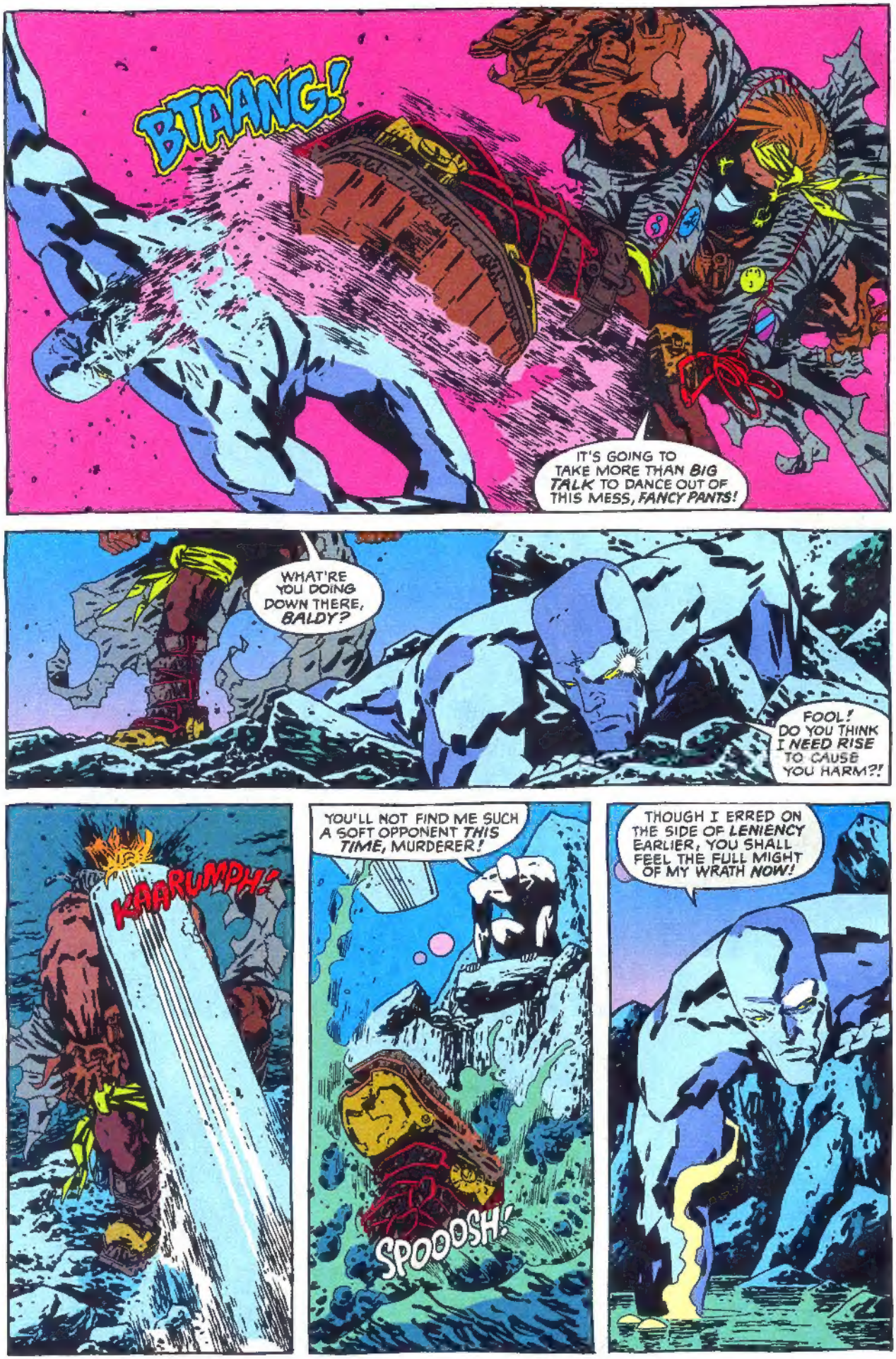

THE SILVER SURFER, ONCE PROUD TRAVELER OF THE SPACEWAYS, LIES ABANDONED AFTER LUNATIK'S SAVAGE ATTACK!
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE BATTLE WAS HORRIFIC, A BEING OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER SUCH AS THIS CAN BARELY BE UNDERSTOOD AND CAN NEVER BE UNDERESTIMATED.
NOT A BEING WHO CAN DRAW ENERGY FROM THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES WITH A SIMPLE GESTURE.
ONCE AGAIN I MUST FACE THE SERPENT IN PARADISE!
NOW, QUICKLY TO MY BOARD AND TO THE SIDE OF MY SMALL FRIENDS!
MUCH TIME HAVE I LAIN FALLEN.
I FEAR THE FATE OF THE LITTLE ONES AT THE HANDS OF THE MONSTER THAT FELLED ME.
THAT GREAT PLUME OF SMOKE AND THE FIRE BELOW CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE BATTLE IS LONG OVER.
I MUST SEE TO THE NEEDS OF THE SURVIVORS!

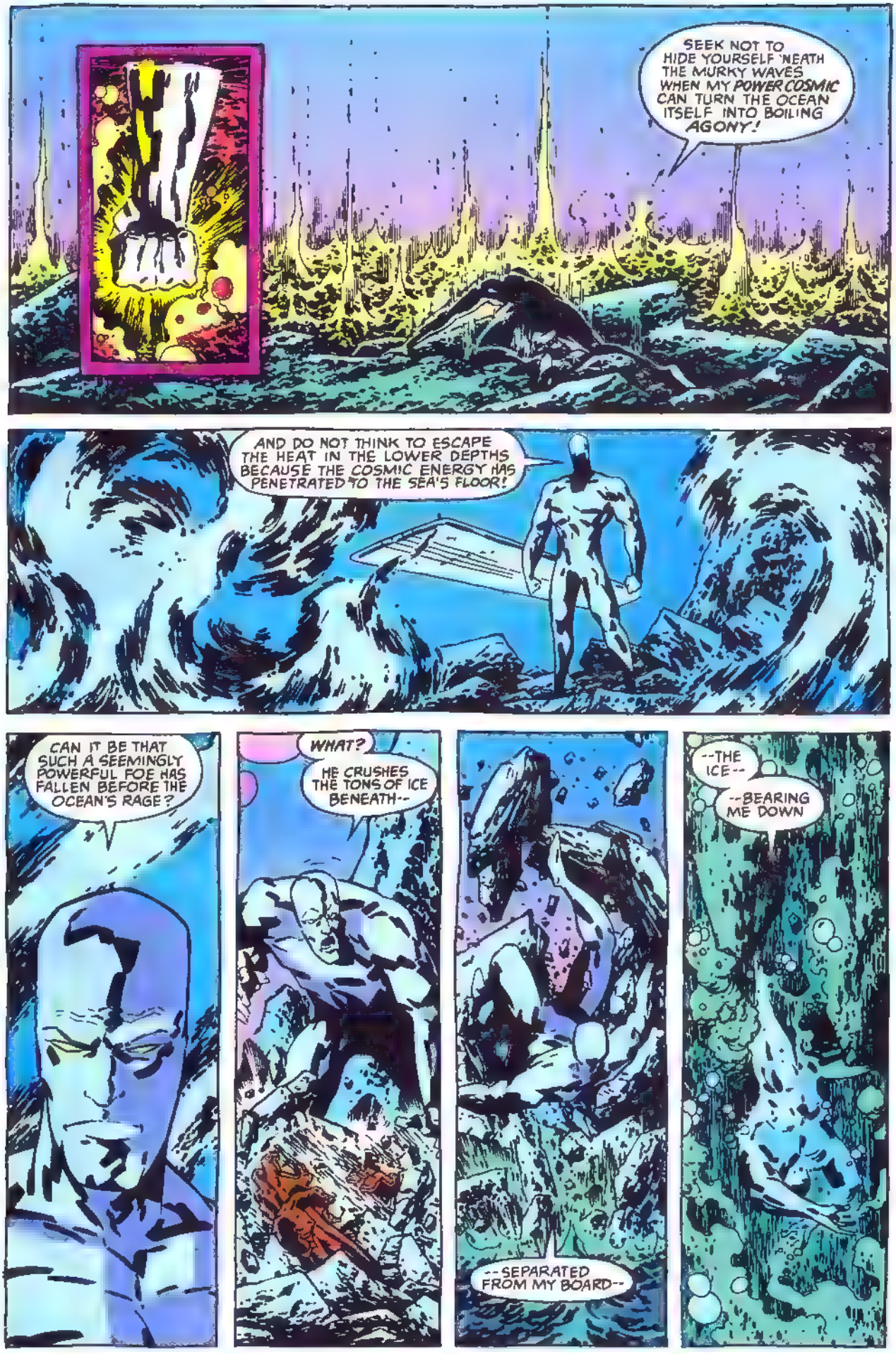

DAMAGES
SURPRISED, eh? I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD FIGURED THAT THE MAD CHEMIST WROTE HIS FORMULA ALL OVER THESE LITTLE DOUGHBOYS.
TROUBLE IS THE ORDER-- GRAMMAR IS MISSING!
AND IF YOU KNOW ORELLIAN, ANY ORDER YOU PUT IT IN MEANS SOMETHING!
I MEAN REALLY! YOU WANT TO TRY?

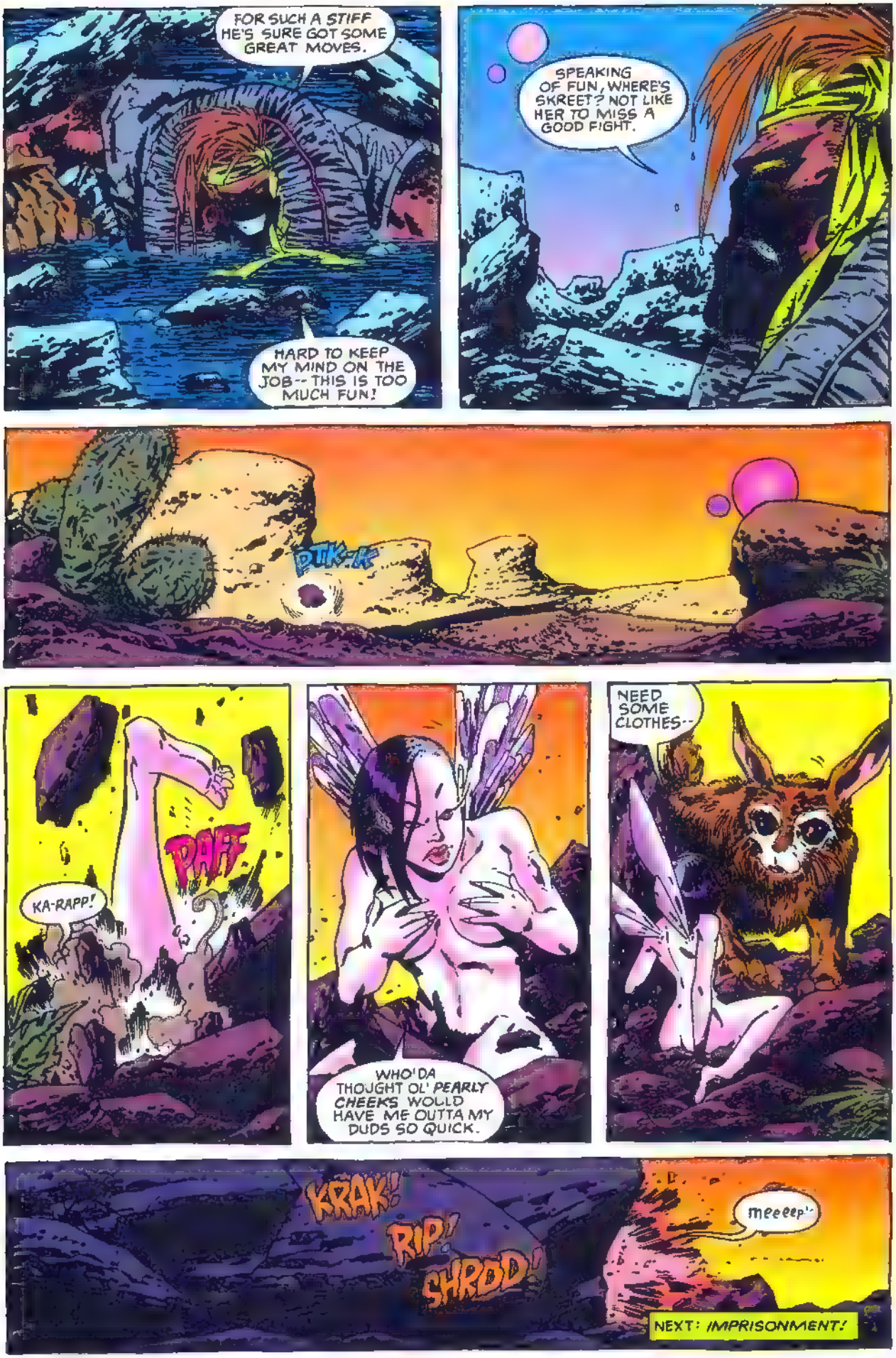

YOU ARE AN OBSCENITY!
C'MON, LU! YOU KNOW IT'S "I" BEFORE "Q" EXCEPT AFTER EPSILON.
KARAKAKATHOOM!!

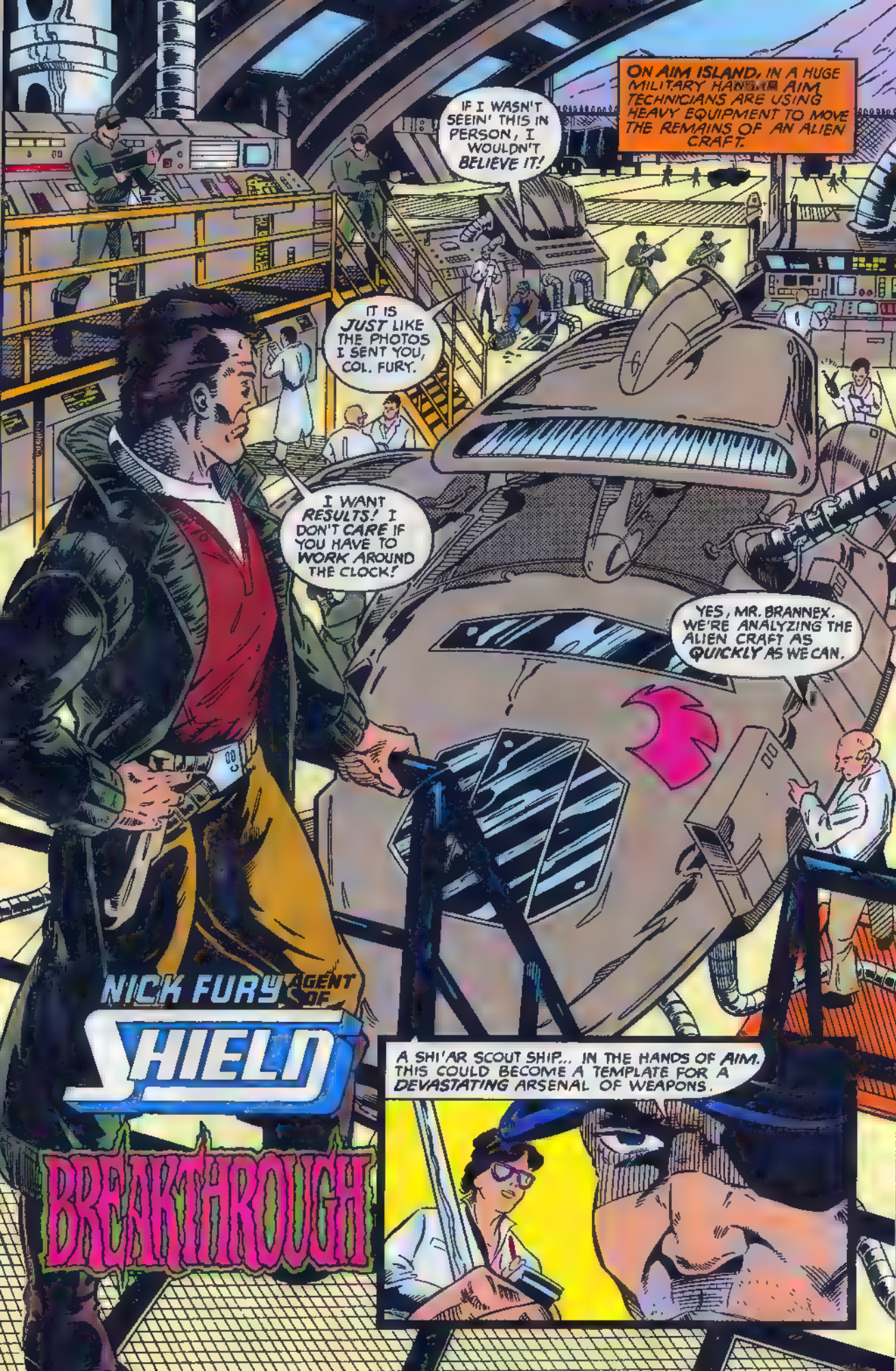

GREAT! JUST GREAT! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE A FORMULA OUT OF PORK RINDS?!
FIRST, YOU TAKE OUT MY TARGETTED HIT AND DESTROY THE BODY. THEN YOU FRY MY GUN AND KNOCK ME THROUGH A COUPLE OF MILES OF FOREST!
AND THEN-- AND THEN YOU DESTROY THE FORMULA! NOW I'M A REASONABLE MAN, BUT--
YOU MISANTHROPIC MONSTER!
HOW DARE YOU CLAIM ANY CONNECTION WITH REASON!
KRATHOOOM

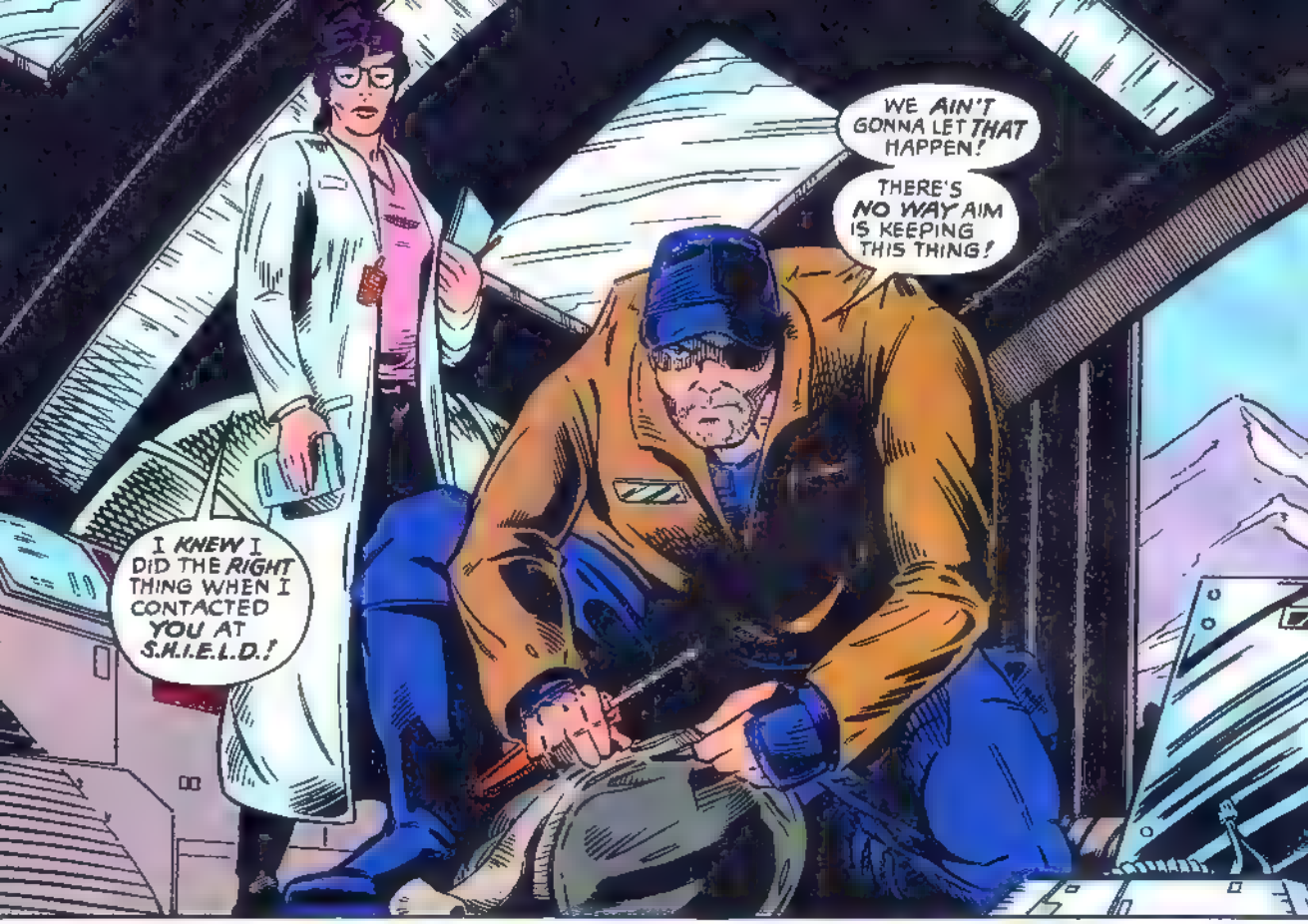

NORTHERN POLAR CAP OF THE INSIGNIFICANT PLANET.
BOOMF!
AS LUNATIK'S ATMOSPHERIC JOURNEY COMES TO AN ICY CONCLUSION.
THOOMP!
PTHAP!
PTHIP!
Waa-a-hoo! WHAT A KICK IN THE HEAD!
TOO GREAT! BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY BUSINESS HEAD-- BECAUSE UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS--
--HERE COMES THAT CHROMED COMMISSION-STEALING X-MAS ORNAMENT!!
BASE VILLAIN!! STAND YOU READY TO RECEIVE PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR COWARDLY CRIMES!

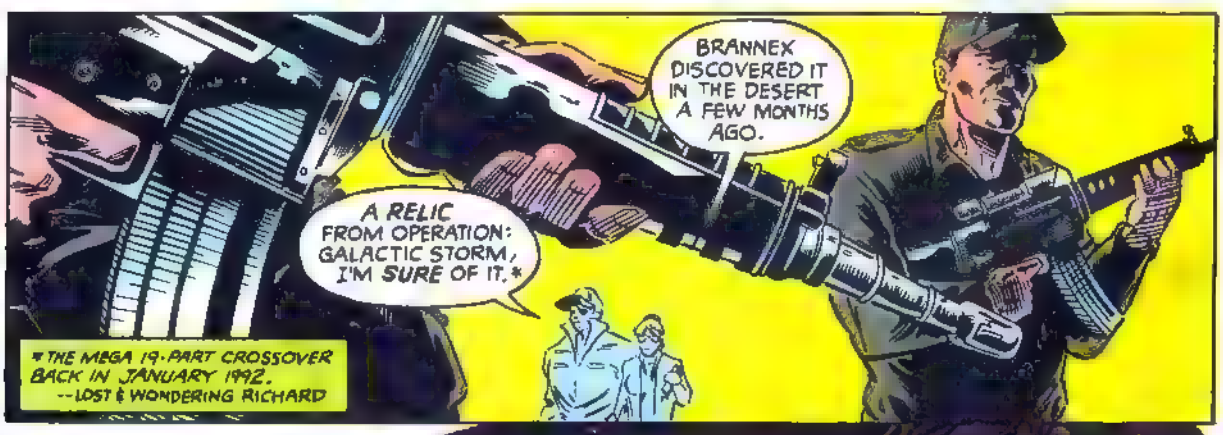

BTAANG!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN BIG TALK TO DANCE OUT OF THIS MESS, FANCY PANTS!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN THERE, BALDY?
FOOL! DO YOU THINK I NEED RISE TO CAUSE YOU HARM?!
KAARUMPH!
YOU'LL NOT FIND ME SUCH A SOFT OPPONENT THIS TIME, MURDERER!
SPOOOSH!
THOUGH I ERRED ON THE SIDE OF LENIENCY EARLIER, YOU SHALL FEEL THE FULL MIGHT OF MY WRATH NOW!

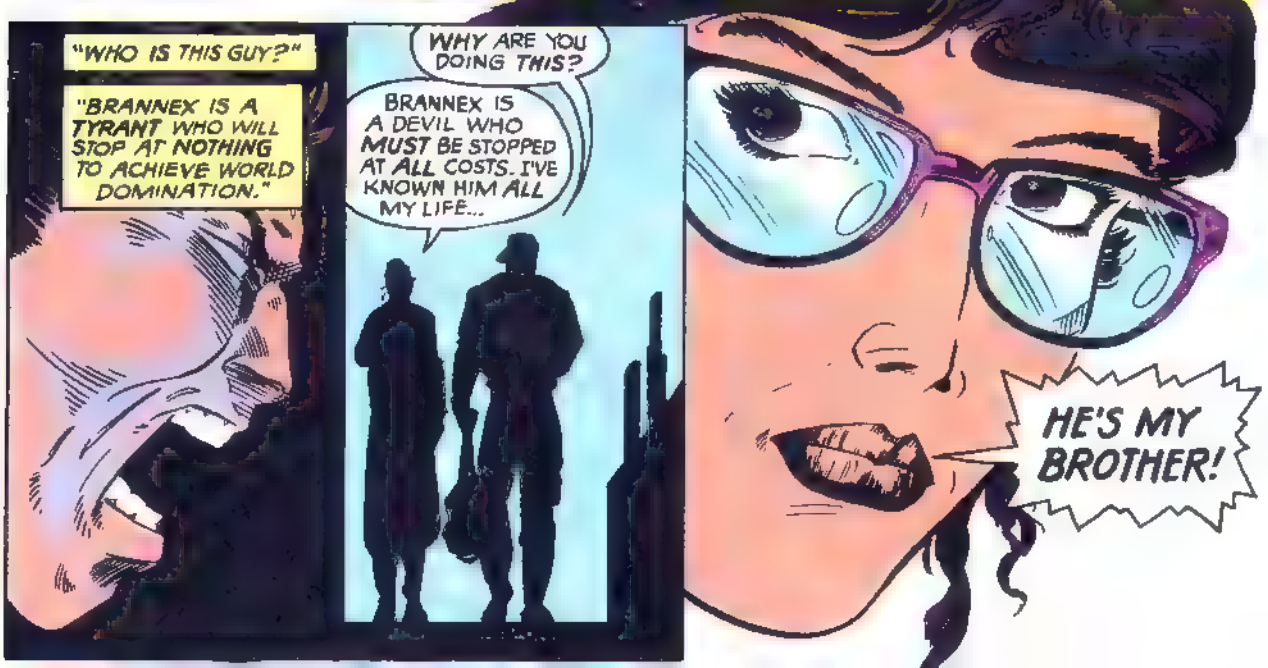

SEEK NOT TO HIDE YOURSELF 'NEATH THE MURKY WAVES WHEN MY POWER COSMIC CAN TURN THE OCEAN ITSELF INTO BOILING AGONY!
AND DO NOT THINK TO ESCAPE THE HEAT IN THE LOWER DEPTHS BECAUSE THE COSMIC ENERGY HAS PENETRATED TO THE SEA'S FLOOR!
CAN IT BE THAT SUCH A SEEMINGLY POWERFUL FOE HAS FALLEN BEFORE THE OCEAN'S RAGE?
WHAT?
HE CRUSHES THE TONS OF ICE BENEATH--
--SEPARATED FROM MY BOARD--
--THE ICE--
--BEARING ME DOWN


FOR SUCH A STIFF HE'S SURE GOT SOME GREAT MOVES.
HARD TO KEEP MY MIND ON THE JOB-- THIS IS TOO MUCH FUN!
SPEAKING OF FUN, WHERE'S SKREET? NOT LIKE HER TO MISS A GOOD FIGHT.
PTIK-K
KA-RAPP!
PAFF
WHO'DA THOUGHT OL' PEARLY CHEEKS WOULD HAVE ME OUTTA MY DUDS SO QUICK.
NEED SOME CLOTHES--
KRAK!
RIP!
SHRDD!
meeeep!
NEXT: IMPRISONMENT!


ON AIM ISLAND, IN A HUGE MILITARY HANGAR, AIM TECHNICIANS ARE USING HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO MOVE THE REMAINS OF AN ALIEN CRAFT.
IF I WASN'T SEEIN' THIS IN PERSON, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT IS JUST LIKE THE PHOTOS I SENT YOU, COL. FURY.
I WANT RESULTS! I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO WORK AROUND THE CLOCK!
YES, MR. BRANNEX. WE'RE ANALYZING THE ALIEN CRAFT AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.
NICK FURY AGENT OF SHIELD
BREAKTHROUGH
A SHI'AR SCOUT SHIP... IN THE HANDS OF AIM. THIS COULD BECOME A TEMPLATE FOR A DEVASTATING ARSENAL OF WEAPONS.


I KNEW I DID THE RIGHT THING WHEN I CONTACTED YOU AT S.H.I.E.L.D.!
THERE'S NO WAY AIM IS KEEPING THIS THING!
WE AIN'T GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN!


A RELIC FROM OPERATION: GALACTIC STORM, I'M SURE OF IT.*
BRANNEX DISCOVERED IT IN THE DESERT A FEW MONTHS AGO.
*THE MEGA 19-PART CROSSOVER BACK IN JANUARY 1992.
--LOST & WONDERING RICHARD

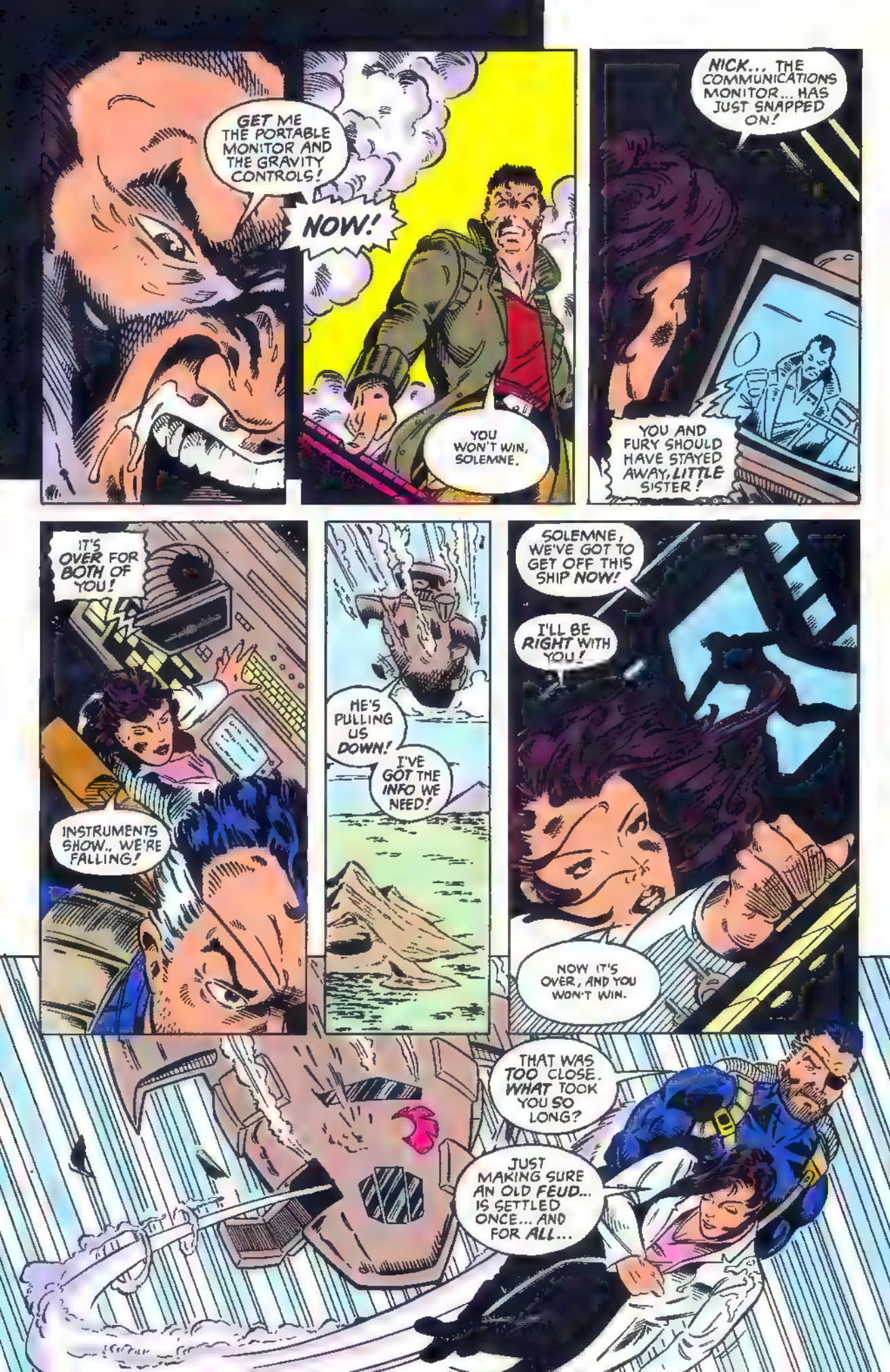

"WHO IS THIS GUY?"
"BRANNEX IS A TYRANT WHO WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO ACHIEVE WORLD DOMINATION."
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
BRANNEX IS A DEVIL WHO MUST BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS. I'VE KNOWN HIM ALL MY LIFE...
HE'S MY BROTHER!

LADY, YER FULL OF SURPRISES.
YOU REALIZE THAT TO STOP HIM, THINGS MAY HAVE TO GET NASTY.
I AM PREPARED TO GIVE MY LIFE IF IT MEANS PUTTING AN END TO HIS MAD DREAMS OF CONQUEST.
I TOLD YOU I WANT RESULTS!
UNLOCK THE SECRETS THIS ALIEN CRAFT HAS TO OFFER...
...OR I WILL HAVE EACH ONE OF YOU SHOT TO DEATH!
OKAY, I'VE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH!
JUST LIKE WE PLANNED, WE RETRIEVE THE INFO I NEED...
...THEN WE TRASH IT!
STAY CLOSE TO ME. I'LL CUT US A PATH TO THE SHIP.
PLAYTIME'S OVER, KIDS!

NAH. ON SECOND THOUGHT, PLAYTIME'S JUST GETTIN' STARTED!
BWACHOOM
AARGH!
MOVE IT!
WHEN WILL YA JERKS EVER LEARN?!
BOX HIM IN! HE'S ONLY ONE MAN!
IT'S THE KEVLAR THAT MAKES THE MAN...
UGGHH!
...THAT AND THE SIZE O' HIS GUN!
THE BIGGER THE BETTER!
BRRRATATATATA
AARRRGH!
"JUST BE THANKFUL WHEN YA WAKE UP THAT I'M ONLY USIN' STUN BLASTS!"

I BELIEVE YOU TWO HAVE GONE FAR ENOUGH.
I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS, LITTLE SISTER..
SOME-ONE HAD TO TRY!
YOU AND FURY SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY!
UGHG!
SEZ YOU, LOUDMOUTH!
OHH!
CHOOM CHOOM
YOU WON'T WIN, SOLEMNE!
CRACK
EEIII!
YOU MURDERIN' PIECE OF FILTH!
YOU SHOT YOUR OWN SISTER!
YOUR SISTER!
WHAM!

HANG IN THERE, KID! WORK WITH ME HERE TILL WE GET YOU INSIDE.
I... I THINK I... CAN MAKE IT.
STOP THEM!
VIP VIP
TWING
DON'T LET THEM GET INSIDE!!
VIP VIP
TWING
I TH NK WE DEFINITELY OVERSTAYED OUR WEL-COME...
HANG ON-- I'LL HAVE US OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND!
IF I REMEMBER ALL THE S.H.I.E.L.D. INTELLIGENCE DATA ON THIS BABY.
I'LL KNOW ENOUGH TO GET AIRBORNE -- WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE LANDING LATER!
SKRASH
FOOSHHH


GET ME THE PORTABLE MONITOR AND THE GRAVITY CONTROLS!
NOW!
YOU WON'T WIN, SOLEMNE.
NICK... THE COMMUNICATIONS MONITOR... HAS JUST SNAPPED ON!
YOU AND FURY SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY, LITTLE SISTER!
IT'S OVER FOR BOTH OF YOU!
INSTRUMENTS SHOW.. WE'RE FALLING!
HE'S PULLING US DOWN!
I'VE GOT THE INFO WE NEED!
SOLEMNE, WE'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS SHIP NOW!
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!
NOW IT'S OVER, AND YOU WON'T WIN.
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE. WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
JUST MAKING SURE AN OLD FEUD... IS SETTLED ONCE... AND FOR ALL...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY, DEAR SISTER!
MR BRANNEX! MR. BRANNEX, WE'RE ON RED ALERT!
THE ALIEN SHIP...
...IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
KRAKACHOOM
HE WAS MY BROTHER.. BUT I HAD NO CHOICE. I COULDN'T LET... HIS EVIL GROW...
REST EASY, I'LL GET YOU TO A DOCTOR.
YOU FOLLOWED YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND YOUR ACTIONS MAY HAVE SAVED MILLIONS OF LIVES.
NO ONE COULD ASK FOR MORE.
END

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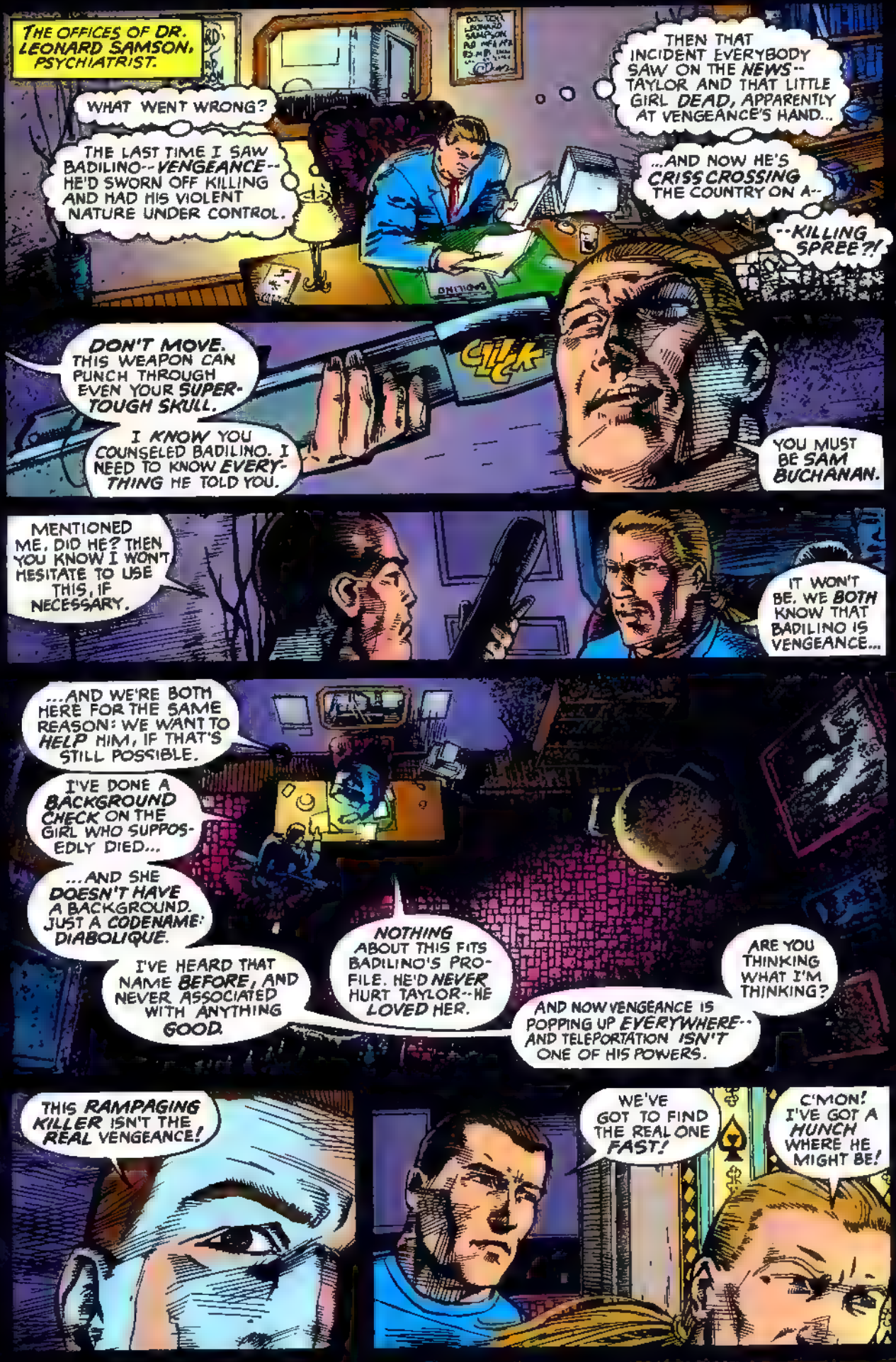
LATE FEB
174
VENGEANCE
EXCALIBUR
LUNATIK
NICK FURY
DIRECT EDITION
59606 02214 4
17411 >
$1.75 US /2.35 CAN

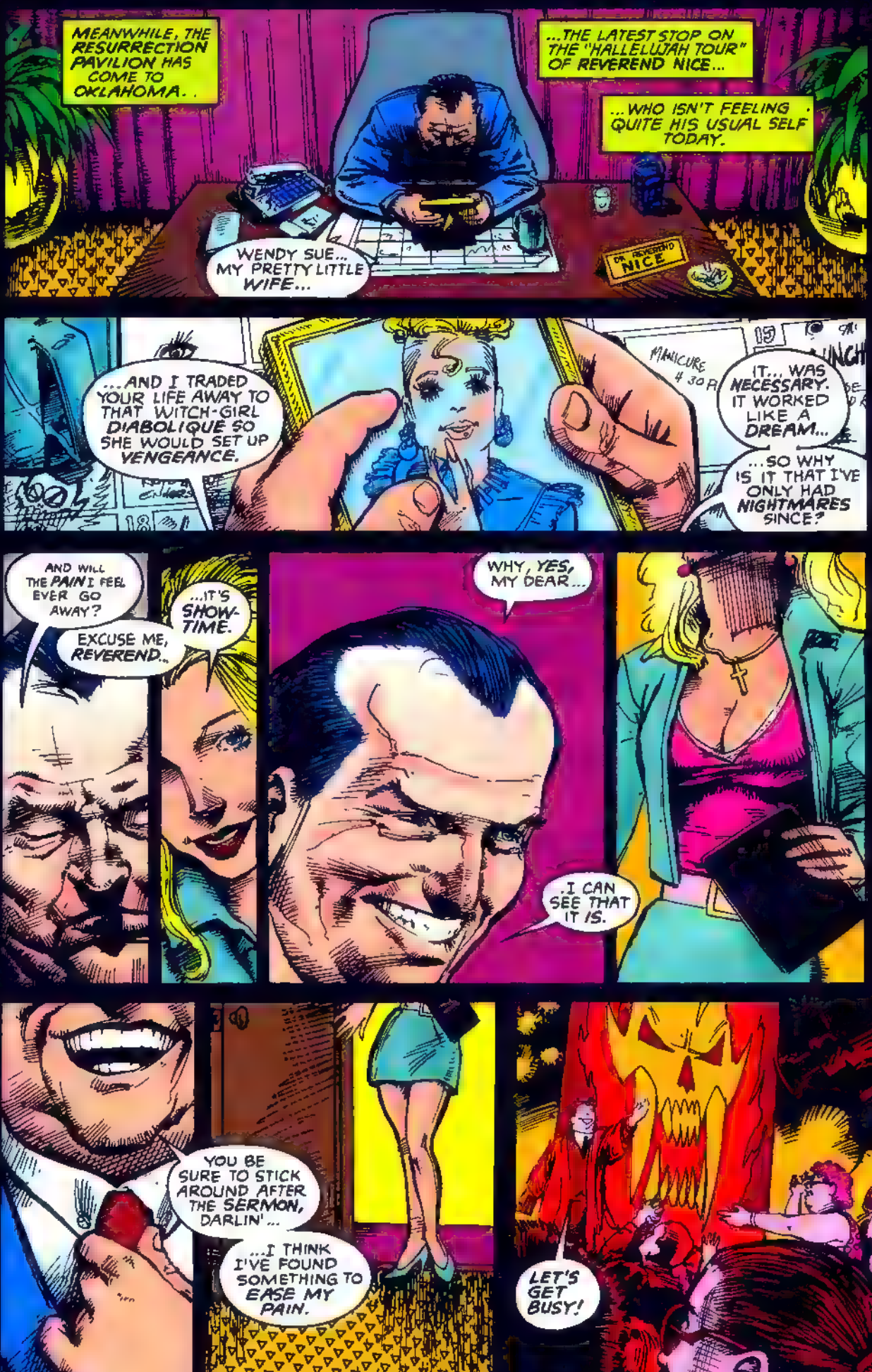
VENGEANCE
GONE WILD!
"THEY CALL ME UNO-- AS IN NUMBER ONE, THE BOSS OF THE THE FEDERAL STRIKE FORCE TO ELIMINATE SUPER-HUMAN THREATS.
"INSTEAD, ONE OF THOSE THREATS ELIMINATED ONE OF MY BEST AGENTS: REBECCA TAYLOR, MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD...
"..WHILE ANOTHER AGENT, MICHAEL BADILINO, HAS BEEN AWOL • EVER SINCE...
"..AND THE SUPERHUMAN THAT CAUSED IT ALL -- THE CREATURE THAT'S PLAGUED MY TEAM FOR WEEKS-- IS STILL ON THE LOOSE...
...AND ON A KILLING SPREE.
"THESE DAYS THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER REASON TO CALL ME UNO-- BECAUSE I'VE GOT ONLY ONE THING ON MY MIND..."
• ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE.

"...BRINGING VENGEANCE DOWN!!"
TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK.
LET GO OF THE CONVICT NOW, VENGEANCE--
--OR YOU'LL GIVE ME AND MY TEAM THE EXCUSE WE NEED TO BLAST YOUR MURDERING HIDE TO PIECES!!
AMBIENT WAVE
DUH
Coke
W 44

YOU THOUGHT TURNING YOURSELF IN WOULD SAVE YOU FROM MY WRATH...
...THAT A POLICE VAN COULD PROTECT YOU FROM MY ANGER?
HELP!! S-SOMEBODY HELP ME!!
YES, THAT'S THE WAY YOUR VICTIMS SCREAMED BEFORE YOU BUTCHERED THEM.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE SAME MERCY.
YEEEAAGH!
BLOOM
LES MISERABLE
BLAST IT, HE'S KILLING ANOTHER ONE!
THAT'S IT, TEAM-- LET HIM HAVE IT!!

BRATATATATAT
PING
PING
PING
PING
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, UNO. MY MOTOR-CYCLE...
...WILL TAKE ME WHEREVER LOWLIFE SCUM IS HIDING...
...SO THEY CAN FACE MY BRAND OF JUSTICE.
AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME.
WAS TAYLOR LOWLIFE SCUM?! OR THAT LITTLE GIRL HE FRIED??*
*OR SO IT SEEMED, LAST ISSUE. --RICHARD
WE'VE CHASED HIM ALL DAY, ALL OVER NEW YORK, AND A DOZEN KILLINGS LATER HE'S STILL ONE STEP AHEAD!
...WHAT?!
I'LL TELL HER
BOSE... VENGEANCE WAS JUST SIGHTED IN LOS ANGELES!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! HE JUST LEFT HERE A FEW SECONDS AGO!
WHERE'S BUCHANAN? MAYBE HE CAN EXPLAIN THIS.
HE'S SEARCHING FOR BADILINO, REMEMBER?
GREAT. THE TWO TEAM MEMBERS WHO KNOW THE MOST ABOUT VENGEANCE, AND NEITHER OF THEM IS HERE.
THEN THEY'LL MISS THE ACTION...
...'CAUSE I'LL BE WAITING FOR VENGEANCE NEXT TIME...
...AND IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME!


THE OFFICES OF DR. LEONARD SAMSON, PSYCHIATRIST.
WHAT WENT WRONG?
THE LAST TIME I SAW BADILINO--VENGEANCE--HE'D SWORN OFF KILLING AND HAD HIS VIOLENT NATURE UNDER CONTROL.
THEN THAT INCIDENT EVERYBODY SAW ON THE NEWS--TAYLOR AND THAT LITTLE GIRL DEAD, APPARENTLY AT VENGEANCE'S HAND...
...AND NOW HE'S CRISS CROSSING THE COUNTRY ON A--
--KILLING SPREE?!
DON'T MOVE. THIS WEAPON CAN PUNCH THROUGH EVEN YOUR SUPER-TOUGH SKULL.
CLICK
I KNOW YOU COUNSELED BADILINO. I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING HE TOLD YOU.
YOU MUST BE SAM BUCHANAN.
MENTIONED ME, DID HE? THEN YOU KNOW I WON'T HESITATE TO USE THIS, IF NECESSARY.
IT WON'T BE. WE BOTH KNOW THAT BADILINO IS VENGEANCE...
...AND WE'RE BOTH HERE FOR THE SAME REASON: WE WANT TO HELP HIM, IF THAT'S STILL POSSIBLE.
I'VE DONE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON THE GIRL WHO SUPPOSEDLY DIED...
...AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BACKGROUND. JUST A CODENAME: DIABOLIQUE.
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE, AND NEVER ASSOCIATED WITH ANYTHING GOOD.
NOTHING ABOUT THIS FITS BADILINO'S PROFILE. HE'D NEVER HURT TAYLOR--HE LOVED HER.
AND NOW VENGEANCE IS POPPING UP EVERYWHERE--AND TELEPORTATION ISN'T ONE OF HIS POWERS.
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
THIS RAMPAGING KILLER ISN'T THE REAL VENGEANCE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE REAL ONE FAST!
C'MON! I'VE GOT A HUNCH WHERE HE MIGHT BE!

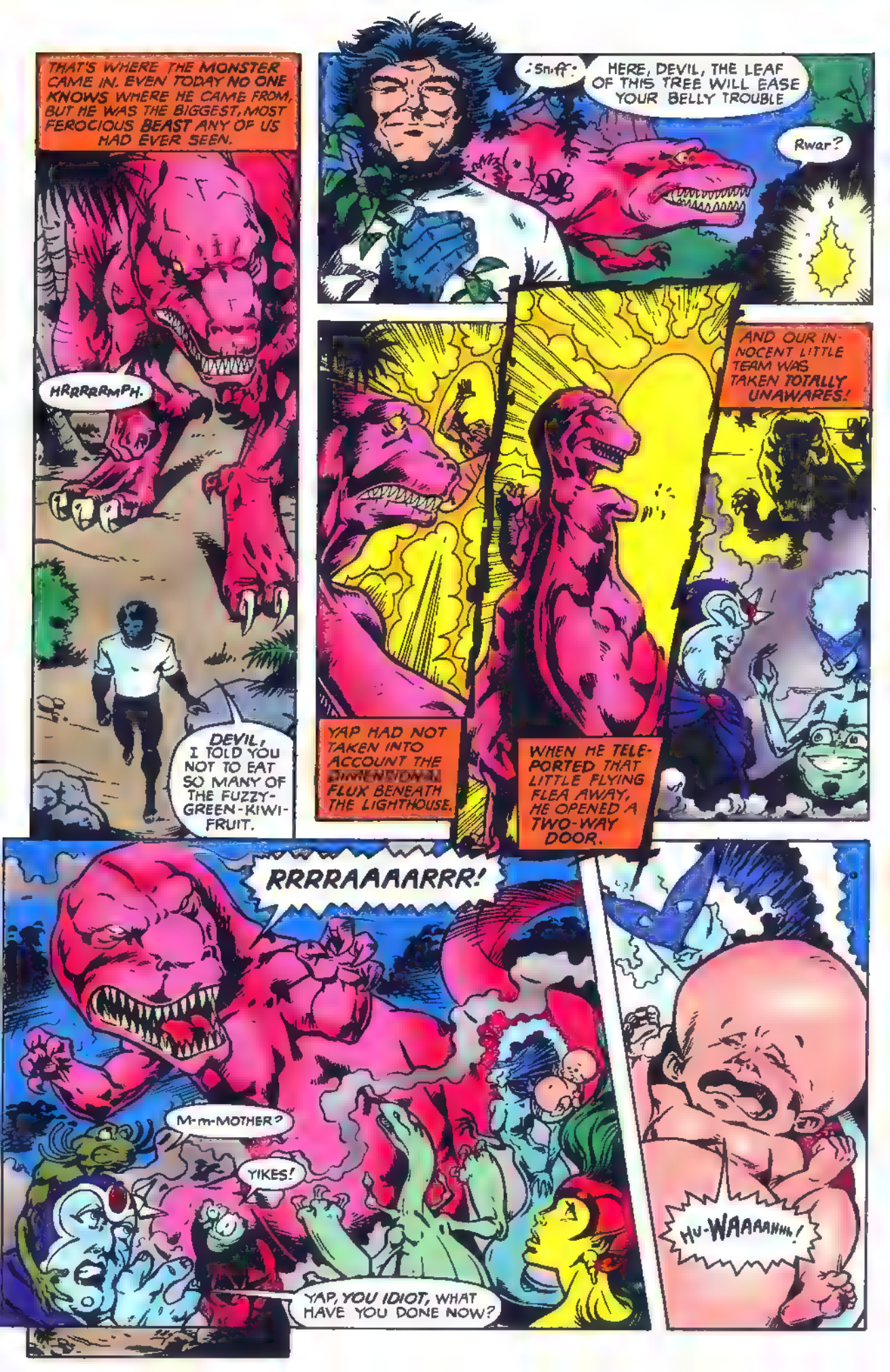

MEANWHILE, THE RESURRECTION PAVILION HAS COME TO OKLAHOMA..
...THE LATEST STOP ON THE "HALLELUJAH TOUR" OF REVEREND NICE...
...WHO ISN'T FEELING QUITE HIS USUAL SELF TODAY.
WENDY SUE... MY PRETTY LITTLE WIFE...
DR. REVEREND NICE
...AND I TRADED YOUR LIFE AWAY TO THAT WITCH-GIRL DIABOLIQUE SO SHE WOULD SET UP VENGEANCE.
MANICURE 4 30 P
IT... WAS NECESSARY. IT WORKED LIKE A DREAM...
...SO WHY IS IT THAT I'VE ONLY HAD NIGHTMARES SINCE?
AND WILL THE PAIN I FEEL EVER GO AWAY?
EXCUSE ME, REVEREND..
...IT'S SHOW-TIME.
WHY, YES, MY DEAR...
.I CAN SEE THAT IT IS.
YOU BE SURE TO STICK AROUND AFTER THE SERMON, DARLIN'...
...I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING TO EASE MY PAIN.
LET'S GET BUSY!

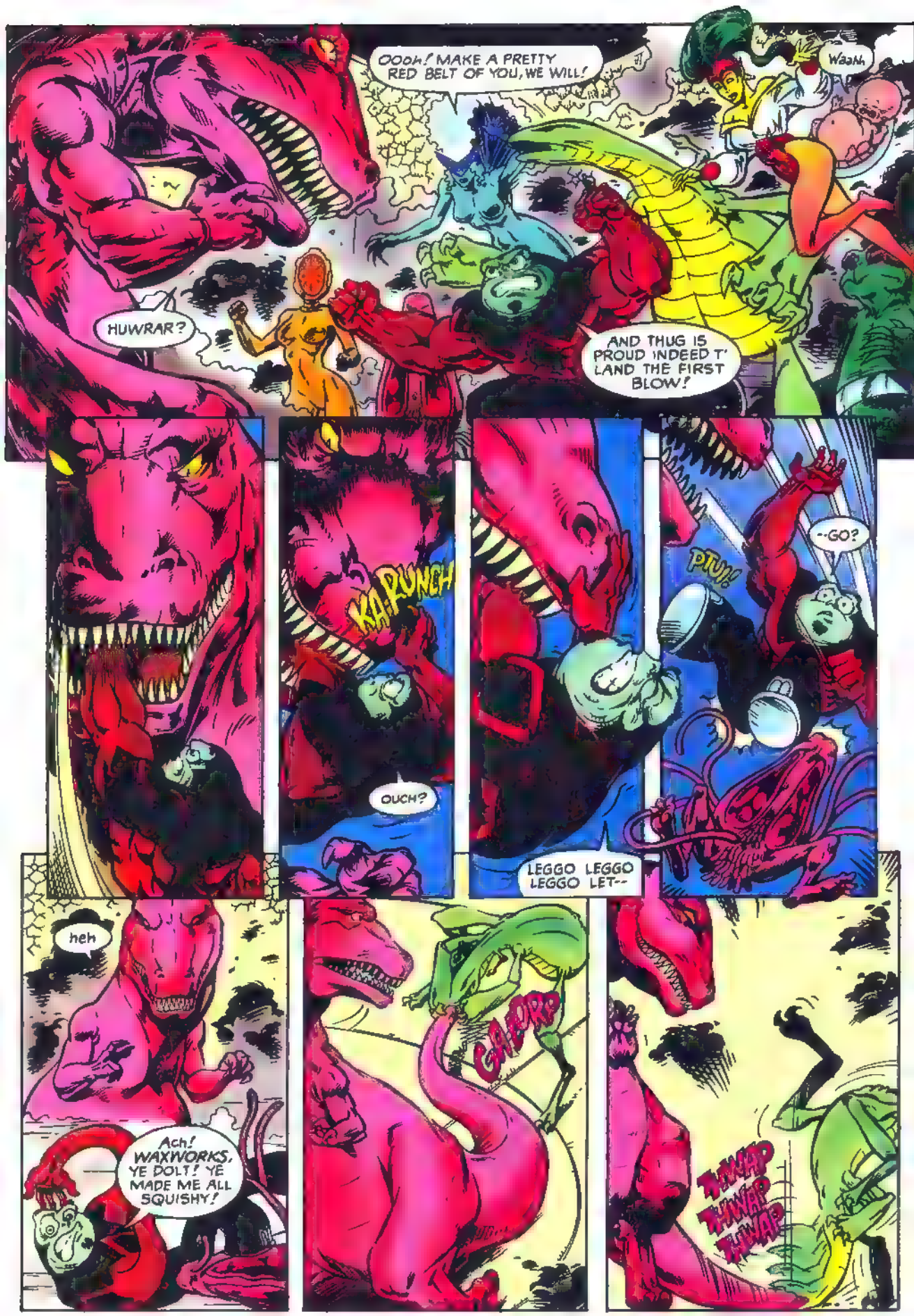
AT LAST, THE WORLD KNOWS WHAT THE FAITHFUL HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG...
...VENGEANCE, THE FALSE HERO, IS REVEALED AS THE MURDERIN' MONSTER HE TRULY IS!
YOU'RE THE MONSTER, REVEREND NICE--
--BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A TASTE OF VENGEANCE!
VROOOM
NOT THIS TIME, KILLER!
UNO?!
--AND THE REST OF MY TEAM, ARMED WITH ENERGY WEAPONS THAT CAN DESTROY EVEN YOU!
I SWORE I'D GUESS YOUR NEXT MOVE, AND NICE'S CRUSADE AGAINST YOU MADE HIM A LOGICAL TARGET!
YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO A TRAP, AND NOW... YOU'RE FINISHED!!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN BROOKLYN...
WE CLOSE AT SUNDOWN
A CEMETERY?
GHOST RIDER ALWAYS HUNG OUT IN THOSE, BUT NOT VENGEANCE--
NOT JUST ANY CEMETERY--THIS IS WHERE TAYLOR WAS BURIED, A FEW DAYS AGO...
...ABOUT THE TIME "VENGEANCE" STARTED HIS RAMPAGE.
THAT SHOULD BE THE GRAVE JUST AHEAD--
Oh, MY GOD...
BADILINO!!
Ahh, GENTLEMEN. WELCOME.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BADILINO?!
REBEL
TAYLOR
1966 - 1994
R.I.P.
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO. THE NAME'S CLEMSON...
...AND ALL I'VE DONE IS SET HIM FREE!
I'VE GIVEN HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

Ahh, THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
NOT TOO LONG AGO, MY TECHNET AND I WERE THE PREMIER MERCENARIES OF A THOUSAND WORLDS.
WELL, NOT ALL OF THEM WERE GOOD. THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME ON EARTH 616, NOT LONG BEFORE THE UNGRATEFUL LOUTS RAN OUT ON ME.*
ANYWAY, WE WE WERE STILL WORKING FOR THE UNIVERSAL MAJESTRIX SATURNYNE, THAT UNGRATEFUL COW, AND HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED TO CAPTURE PHOENIX, MEMBER OF THE MUTANT TEAM EXCALIBUR
JUST AS YOU ASKED, MOTHER, EXCALIBUR'S LIGHTHOUSE! Snee.
YES, YES, YES. STOP CONGRATULATING YOURSELF, YOU REPULSIVE LITTLE REPTILE.
WITH THE DIMENSIONAL NEXUS DOWN HERE, HAD I CHOSE TO, I COULD HAVE TELEPORTED US HERE MYSELF.
SEEMS WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A BI' OF A PEST, GATECRASHER.
EEP!
CROSS TIME CRITTERS
*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE JUST BEFORE EXCALIBUR #42.
FEATURING TECHNET!

THUG, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND...
AYE, 'TIS ME OWN PLEASURE
BODYBAG, PLEASE PACKAGE THE LITTLE MONSTER FOR ME.
DO TAKE CARE TO LEAVE PLENTY OF ROOM.
SLORP!
WAAA!! DA WEE BEASTIE'S GOT ME FINGERS!
FA-WOOSH
BAH! STAND BACK! I GET 'IM! I'M GONNA CLIP HIS LITTLE--
AAAHHG!
CAN'T ANY OF YOU OVERPAID MISCREANTS EVEN TAKE CARE OF SUCH A LITTLE--
MY HAIR!
Oh, MY POOR, POOR, BEAUTIFUL HAIR!
whoops
RIGHT! THAT'S IT!
YAP! JUST SEND HIM AWAY. I CERTAINLY DON'T CARE WHERE!
NOT ONE WORD.


THAT'S WHERE THE MONSTER CAME IN. EVEN TODAY NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE CAME FROM, BUT HE WAS THE BIGGEST, MOST FEROCIOUS BEAST ANY OF US HAD EVER SEEN.
HRRRRRMPH.
DEVIL, I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT SO MANY OF THE FUZZY-GREEN-KIWI-FRUIT.
:Sniff:
HERE, DEVIL, THE LEAF OF THIS TREE WILL EASE YOUR BELLY TROUBLE
Rwar?
AND OUR INNOCENT LITTLE TEAM WAS TAKEN TOTALLY UNAWARES!
YAP HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE DIMENSIONAL FLUX BENEATH THE LIGHTHOUSE.
WHEN ME TELEPORTED THAT LITTLE FLYING FLEA AWAY, HE OPENED A TWO-WAY DOOR.
RRRRAAAARRR!
M-m-MOTHER?
YIKES!
YAP, YOU IDIOT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE NOW?
HU-WAAAAHH!


OOOh! MAKE A PRETTY RED BELT OF YOU, WE WILL!
WAAH.
HUWRAR?
AND THUG IS PROUD INDEED T' LAND THE FIRST BLOW!
KA-PUNCH
OUCH?
PIUW
--GO?
LEGGO LEGGO LEGGO LET--
heh
Ach! WAXWORKS, YE DOLT! YE MADE ME ALL SQUISHY!
GA-LURP
HWAP HWAP HWAP

?
!
!#K%@!
...
SO, LITTLE ONE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HELLO, SMALL-PURPLE-DRAGON. I AM MOON BOY AND I HAVE LOST MY FRIEND, DEVIL.
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE COULD HAVE GONE TO. HE IS SO BIG, YOU SEE.
COME, MY NEW FRIEND. LET US TRAVEL TOGETHER.
BY THE WAY, WHAT WILL YOU TRADE FOR YOUR VERY HANDSOME EYE-SHIELDS?

EVEN SCATTERBRAIN TRIED TO USE HER SPECIAL TALENT ON THE MONSTER, BUT EVEN FIRING ALL OF HIS SYNAPSES ALL AT ONCE...
WELL, AGAINST A FOE WITH A BRAIN THE SIZE OF A PEA, IT REALLY HAD NO EFFECT.
OVER-GROWN IS ALL YOU ARE!
ONE GENTLE CARESS AND CHINADOLL WILL HAVE YOU AS HER OWN LITTLE PET.
WHOMP!
THAT MONSTER TOOK EVERYTHING MY POOR TECHNET THREW AT IT.
WHAP
IT WAS THEN I KNEW I HAD TO MAKE MY MOVE.
QUICKLY, LIZARD, WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED! SEND HIM BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!
BUT, MOTHER--
NOW!

THANK YOU FOR THE EYE-SHIELDS, SMALL-PURPLE-DRAGON. NOW I AM AS COOL AS MY FRIEND BOOM-BOOM.*
I HOPE THE TRIBUTE I OFFER APPEASES YOU.
*THEY ACTUALLY MET DURING THE "FALLEN ANGELS" LIMITED SERIES. --RICHARD
HWRRRR
WILL ONE MORE LEG HELP TO BALANCE THE PAYMENT?
HYUP!
MY ONLY QUESTION IS WHERE MY FRIEND DEVIL HAS GOTTEN TO. HE IS USUALLY MUCH MORE SOCIAL THAN THIS.
heee?
ZZOOPT
HWRUH?
Eh? DEVIL, THERE YOU ARE!
GLEEK!
WHERE WERE YOU?!?
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE SMALL-PURPLE-DRAGON BEARING GIFTS?
GAARRONK?
YOU AREN'T STANDING ON HIM BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU?

ZOOP!
NO INCOME THIS DAY.
I NAE SEE ANY HELP FROM YE, NUMBERS.
WHAT IS ALL THE NOISE DOWN HERE?
LOCKHEED?
AND THE TECHNET? TOOK CARE OF THEM ALL BY YOUR LONESOME, huh.
THAT'S MY LOCKHEED! WAIT TILL KURT HEARS ABOUT THIS!
AND I WON'T EVEN ASK WHAT YOU DID WITH MY SUNGLASSES.
Bpbpthht!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE END OF GATECRASHER AND HER TECHNET!
WE'LL BE BACK, LITTLE GIRLY! AND WE'LL GET YOUR LITTLE DRAGON, TOO!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY, FATSTUFF!
FIN